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3/4/10

HEALTH CARE REFORM LATEST

VO: 20

A dozen House Democrats opposed to abortion are willing to kill President Barack Obama's healthcare reform plan unless it satisfies their demand for language barring the procedure, Representative Bart Stupak said Thursday.

TOYOTA RECALL

VO: 18

More Toyota drivers say their car and trucks have sped up by themselves even after being fixed to correct the problem. Another five people have reported problems to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's complaint database, describing surges of speed that came without warning. That is on top of at least 15 similar cases found by an Associated Press review of the data on Wednesday. The complaints have not been independently verified. Government investigators said Wednesday that they had found 10 possible cases of post-fix problems.

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3/5/10

IMMIGRATION REFORM

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

Despite steep odds, the White House has discussed prospects for reviving a major overhaul of the nation's immigration laws, a commitment that President Obama has postponed once already. Obama took up the issue privately with his staff Monday in a bid to advance a bill through Congress before lawmakers become too distracted by approaching midterm elections. In the session, Obama and members of his Domestic Policy Council outlined ways to resuscitate the effort in a White House meeting with two senators -- Democrat Charles E. Schumer of New York and Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina -- who have spent months trying to craft a bill. According to a person familiar with the meeting, the White House may ask Schumer and Graham to at least produce a blueprint that could be turned into legislative language.

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3/6/10

6:30pm & 11:30pm

OBAMA-WEEKLY ADDRESS/HEALTHCARE

VO:23

President Barack Obama is trying again to convince the public and wavering members of Congress of the need to pass a health care overhaul bill soon. In his weekly radio and Internet address, says the plan he's put forward would "end the worst practices of the insurance industry" and lower costs for millions of Americans. In their weekly talk, Republicans are repeating their call to start from scratch.

OBAMA- IMMIGRATION REFORM

VO: 20

President Barack Obama plans to focus attention on immigration next week by meeting at the White House with two senators crafting a bill on the issue. White House spokesman Nicholas Shapiro said Obama will meet with Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina on Monday. The president is "looking forward to hearing more about their efforts toward producing a bipartisan bill," Shapiro said Friday. The meeting will be the first Obama has had with Schumer and Graham on the proposal they are developing since they began focusing on it last year.

GM DEALERS

VO: 25

General Motors Co. says it will reinstate about 600 dealerships that were slated to be cut from the automaker's network. GM executives say that about 600 dealerships out of the 1,100 seeking to stay with GM will receive letters giving them the option to remain with the company. GM last year told 2,000 dealerships it would revoke their franchise agreements in October 2010 as part of its restructuring. The company has said it needs to make the cuts to keep the remaining showrooms healthy. The dealerships say they have been treated unfairly and have been appealing the decision.

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3/7/2010

6:30pm & 11:30pm

IMMIGRANTS-CENSUS SCARE

JAIME GARCIA, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 2:00

The 2010 census is on and the Census Bureau wants to assure immigrants here illegally that reporting to the government won't lead to punishment. However, immigration raids have many feeling uneasy. It's the latest in a string some fear will keep other undocumented people from getting counted. Not counting undocumented immigrants costs big. This census, the NALEO hopes to give the Hispanic community a go-between for those getting registered. "The Latino community will rather go to an agency that's not a government agency," Ortega said. "We want to reduce the fears; we want to be trusted messengers," she said.

OBAMA-STIMULUS MINORITY

VO:23

Hispanic and black businesses are receiving a disproportionately small number of federal stimulus contracts, creating a rising chorus of demands for the Obama administration to be more inclusive and more closely track who receives government-financed work. Latinos and blacks have faced obstacles to winning government contracts long before the stimulus. They own 6.8 and 5.2 percent of all businesses, respectively, according to census figures. Yet Latino-owned business have received only 1.7 percent of \$46 billion in federal stimulus contracts recorded in U.S. government data, and black-owned businesses have received just 1.1 percent.

3/08/10

**OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION REFORM
LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 2:02**

President Barack Obama is about to take up a potentially hot button issue -- immigration. A White House spokesman says Obama will meet Monday with Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. The two are trying to draft a bipartisan immigration bill.

**TOYOTA LATEST
MARTIN BERLANGA. MIAMI, FLORIDA
PKG 1:57**

Toyota continues to insist that sudden acceleration problems with some of its cars is mechanical, not electronic. It's disputing the findings of a college professor who says he's been able to recreate the problem. Toyota says the same demonstration can be performed with other brands.

**HEALTHCARE REFORM
LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 2:09**

President Barack Obama will take to the road today to try to persuade a weary public to back his plan to remake the U.S. health care system. Obama travels to Philadelphia today to drum up support for his plan, while also urging uneasy lawmakers to cast a "final vote" for a massive reform bill in an election year.

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3/09/10

**IMMIGRANT CARDS ID
LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 2:17**

Lawmakers working to craft a new comprehensive immigration bill have settled on a way to prevent employers from hiring illegal immigrants: a national biometric identification card all American workers would eventually be required to obtain. Under the potentially controversial plan still taking shape in the Senate, all legal U.S. workers, including citizens and immigrants, would be issued an ID card with embedded information, such as fingerprints, to tie the card to the worker.

**TOYOTA PRIUS INVESTIGATION
LOURDES DEL RIO. MIAMI, FLORIDA
PKG 1:54**

The driver of a 2008 Toyota Prius said his car uncontrollably accelerated to over 90 miles per hour on a San Diego County freeway before a California Highway Patrol officer helped him stop the car, police said. The driver, 61-year-old James Sikes, was not injured in the Monday incident, which is another claim of unintended acceleration that has caused the greatest image crisis for Toyota Motor Corp. in its history. The incident occurred in the same county where an off-duty California Highway Patrol trooper and

three family members were killed last August in an incident that brought the issue to national attention and led to the first major recall over unintended acceleration.

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03/10/10

**IMMIGRATION REFORM MEETING
LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 2:07**

Three years after efforts by Congress to reform the immigration system went down in flames, the issue is slowly re-emerging on the national stage, as two senators from the opposite sides of the political aisle work on crafting another bill. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. are set to appear Thursday at the White House for a meeting with President Obama in which they are expected to seek his guidance on charting a path forward. The reform effort blew up in 2007 after more than a year of work when Republican critics branded the effort as "amnesty" and the tide of public opinion turned strongly against the bill.

**MORE MINORITIES
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK
PKG 2:04**

Minorities make up nearly half the children born in the U.S., part of a historic trend in which minorities are expected to become the U.S. majority over the next 40 years. In fact, demographers say this year could be the "tipping point" when the number of babies born to minorities outnumbers that of babies born to whites. The numbers are growing because immigration to the U.S. has boosted the number of Hispanic women in their prime childbearing years. Minorities made up 48 percent of U.S. children born in 2008, the latest census estimates available, compared to 37 percent in 1990.

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3/11/10

**OBAMA AND IMMIGRATION REFORM
LOURDES MELUZA- WASHINGTON, DC
PKG 2:04**

Advocacy groups say President Barack Obama has assured them that he remains committed to a comprehensive overhaul of U.S. immigration laws. But what can be accomplished on the issue this year remains unclear. At the White House on Thursday, the president spent more than an hour discussing his promise to rewrite U.S. immigration laws. He was to meet later Thursday with New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican. The lawmakers are drafting a bill on the issue. Obama had promised to tackle the immigration issue in his first year in office. That hasn't happened, and advocates are growing restless. The groups are bringing tens of thousands of people from around the country to Washington for a demonstration on March 21.

**SCHOOLS AND ECONOMIC CRISIS
LUIS MEGID-SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
PKG 2:00**

Running a 12-million monthly deficit and expected to run out of money by 2011, the Kansas City Missouri School Board voted Wednesday night to shutter nearly half of its schools. The district is half the size it was ten years ago and isn't getting the necessary state funding to support the infrastructure. On Wednesday night, the vote drew sharp outcries from some parents and community leaders who complained the school closings would gut many predominantly African-American neighborhoods that have already been hit by discrimination and the real-estate collapse. Ironically, the developments in Kansas City have emerged on the heels of a nationwide effort by the nation's governors to streamline education standards in this country. So far all but two states have signed on to the new proposal which hopes to impose nationwide education standards as a way to ensure our children are learning the same skills across the country no matter where they live.

TOYOTA RECALL
JAIME GARCIA- LOS ANGELES, CA
2:00

Toyota's massive recalls are bringing new scrutiny to the government's auto safety agency. They are prompting Congress to look at how federal safety officials have lived up to their mission of protecting motorists. A House panel on Thursday plans to examine the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's oversight of the auto industry in the latest congressional hearing linked to Toyota's recall of more than 8 million vehicles worldwide. Safety groups have accused the agency of being too cozy with the Japanese automaker while lacking the resources to test for vehicle problems that could be electronic, not mechanical.

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3/12/10

HEALTHCARE REFORM
LUIS MEGID-SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PKG 2:15

President Obama has delayed his long-planned trip to Asia to focus on the final push for health care reform. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senior Democrats are still working feverishly to round up the 216 "yes" votes they need to make the health care reform bill a reality. Senate Majority Leader

Harry Reid is so focused on getting a bill done, that he returned to Capitol Hill last night for more meetings, even after rushing to the hospital to visit his wife--- who broke her nose, back and neck in a car accident hours earlier. Gutierrez, a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) in which he serves as chairman of its Immigration Task Force, said the caucus still has concerns over the extent to which the healthcare bill excludes illegal immigrants as well as legal residents from receiving benefits in the healthcare plan. "They are enough to say I can't support this bill," Gutierrez said

CENSUS 2010
BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ-NEW YORK
PKG 2:10

Groups pushing for robust Hispanic participation in the 2010 census are enlisting a new corps of foot-soldiers in their battle to reach that hard-to-count demographic: tech-savvy,

smart-phone-toting young people. The "Be Counted, Represent" campaign offers music downloads and a chance at concert tickets to cell phone users who share their e-mail addresses and phone numbers with organizers and forward information about the census to their friends. Principal organizers Voto Latino and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund stress in their messages that undercounted areas risk losing funding for transit, infrastructure and other needs, as well as political representation.

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3/13/10

6:30 PM / 11:30 PM SHOWS

CENSUS KICKOFF

LILIANA ESCALANTE-LOS ANGELES, CA

PKG 2:13

Just days before the 2010 Census begins in the City of Los Angeles, the Mayor's Office of Census 2010 is leading door-to-door canvassing to raise awareness of the upcoming decennial count, especially among hard-to-count communities. Volunteers from the City of Los Angeles San Fernando Valley Complete Count Committee, Councilmember Richard Alarcón office, State Senator Alex Padilla's office, Voto Latino, Progressive Alternatives for Youth, LA Valley College, LA Mission College, California State University, Northridge, Sylmar High School Key Club, NAMI, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Youth Policy Institute, will canvass Panorama City, North Hills, Van Nuys and North Hollywood to distribute door hangers with information on the Census.

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3/14/10

6:30 PM / 11:30 PM SHOWS

CENSUS 2010

LUIS MEGID- SAN FRANCISCO, CA

PKG 2:06

This month, the Census Bureau will remind Americans that racial classifications remain an integral part of the country's social and legal fabric while, at the same time, recognizing that racial lines are blurring for a growing number of people such as Harvey. The government will give the nation's more than 308 million people the opportunity to define their racial makeup as one race or more. The agency expects the number of people who choose multiple races to be significantly higher than the 2000 Census, when the government first allowed more than one race choice. Responses to this year's survey will provide for the first time a glimpse at the evolution of racial identification: Those who were children in 2000 and were identified as one race by their parents may respond differently as adults today and select more than one.

EDUCATIONAL DISCRIMINATION

JAIME GARCIA- LOS ANGELES, CA

PKG 2:08

Instead of making sure students are proficient for their grade level, President Barack Obama wants to see states adopt standards to make sure students are ready for college or a career. It's one of the changes being outlined for the No Child Left Behind law from the Bush administration. And the changes are already winning praise. Amy Wilkins of The Education Trust, a child advocacy group, says the nation has never been clear until now about what K-through-12 education is supposed to do. The head of the American Association of School Administrators says he's glad to see No Child Left Behind go away. Educators have criticized it for focusing too much on testing and not enough on learning.

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3/15/10

CENSUS 2010 FORMS

LOURDES DEL RIO- MIAMI, FL

PKG 2:10

More than 120 million U.S. census forms begin arriving Monday in mailboxes around the country, in the government's once-a-decade population count that will be used to divvy up congressional seats and more than \$400 billion in federal aid. Fast-growing states in the South and the West could stand to lose the most because of lower-than-average mail participation rates in 2000 and higher shares of Hispanics and young adults, who are among the least likely to mail in their forms.

CENSUS CONFIDENTIALITY

JAIME GARCIA- LOS ANGELES, CA

PKG 2:00

About the undocumented immigrant. How immigrant organizations are pushing for everyone to be counted. The activist telling the undocumented immigrant not be afraid. Under title 13, the information they give is confidential. If they don't fill out the census forms, they will not have Hispanic representation in Congress and fewer legislators to fight for the issues that affect them. The door campaigns that organizations are doing.

HEALTHCARE REFORM

LOURDES MELUZA- WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:21

With a fresh sense of urgency, President Barack Obama sought to reassure seniors Monday about health care legislation approaching a final vote in Congress, pledging it would make preventive care cost-free and close a gap in Medicare prescription drug coverage. Obama's trip to Ohio marked his third out-of-town foray as he tries to build support for long-stalled legislation to remake the health care system. Administration officials have predicted the legislation will clear the House by the end of the week, but Democratic leaders had not yet released the measure as the president's helicopter lifted off from the White House grounds. Even so, the House Budget Committee arranged a mid-afternoon meeting to begin a series of events expected to culminate in a House vote within days.

TOYOTA LATEST

CRISTINA PUIG- MIAMI, FL

PKG 2:03

Some Toyota drivers worried about the safety of their cars are suing for a full refund. Lawsuits filed Monday in Washington and Arizona have asked a judge to allow Toyota owners to return vehicles and get their money back. Toyota is already the target of dozens of lawsuits filed by owners who claim their vehicles have lost value because of the recalls. Those lawsuits seek compensation for any lost value, rather than a full refund. Both types of lawsuits could eventually become class-action suits. Toyota has recalled millions of vehicles in the U.S. because of floor mats that can snag gas pedals or accelerators that can sometimes stick. Toyota did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

=====END OF PART 1=====